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SECRETARY BENTSEN INTRODUCES NEW CURRENCY BEARING HIS SIGNATURE

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen introduced Thursday the new series of United States currency bearing his signature at a ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Secretary was joined by U.S. Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow, whose signature is also on the currency, former House Speaker Jim Wright, Congressman Pete Geren, and Fort Worth Mayor Pro Tempore Virginia Nell Webber at the 3 p.m. ceremony at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's new Western Currency Facility.

United States currency is printed in two places -- Washington, D.C., and the Fort Worth facility. The two plants together print about 35 million notes each day with a face value of about \$465 million.

"Since I became Treasury Secretary, we have printed nearly 11 billion notes here and at the plant in Washington. When you count up all the ones, fives, tens and all the rest, it adds up to about \$145 billion. If you laid it all end to end, it would be 387 round trips between the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Washington," Secretary Bentsen said.

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"Of course, the best part of one of those trips is coming back to Texas. They've done some truly innovative things here. I can't wait to see the presses cranking out sheets of Bentsen bills," Secretary Bentsen said.

The Forth Worth plant, which opened in April 1991, is the first to print this new series of currency. Secretary Bentsen said it was a pleasant coincidence that the ceremony could take place in his home state.

"I've been privileged to serve not just the people of Texas, but also all the people of the United States. And I'm proud that in the past 15 months we've been able to make a difference," he said.